IN THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) An Application Programming Interface (API), comprising:

a platform-independent plug-in API including a wrapper;

a browser plug-in API; and

an intermediary between said platform-independent plug-in API and said browser plug-in API wherein said wrapper is used to connect said platform independent plug-in API to said intermediary, wherein said platform-independent plug-in API comprises a plurality of interfaces and said wrapper includes a plurality of Interface Description Language (IDL) compliant interfaces, each IDL compliant interface being operably configured to connect a respective one of said platform-independent plug-in API interfaces to said intermediary.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Currently Amended) The API of claim 2-1 wherein said intermediary is a BlackConnect component.

4. (Original) The API of claim 3 wherein said BlackConnect component includes an XPCOM component.

5. (Original) The API of claim 1 wherein said platform independent plug-in API is written in a platform independent programming language.

6. (Original) The API of claim 5 wherein said platform independent programming language is Java.

7. (Original) The API of claim 1 wherein said platform independent plug-in API is a backward compatible API.

8. (Original) The API of claim 1 wherein said browser plug-in API further comprises a scriptable plug-in API wherein said scriptable plug-in API connects said browser plug-in API with said intermediary.

9. (Currently Amended) ~~The API of claim 1~~ An Application Programming Interface (API), comprising:

a platform-independent plug-in API including a wrapper;

a browser plug-in API; and

an intermediary between said platform-independent plug-in API and said browser plug-in API wherein said wrapper is used to connect said platform independent plug-in API to said intermediary, wherein said wrapper further comprises: an interface connecting an input stream interface of said platform independent API to said intermediary; an interface connecting an output stream interface of said platform independent API to said intermediary; an interface connecting a pluglet interface of said platform independent API to said intermediary; an interface connecting a pluglet factory interface of said platform independent API to said intermediary; an interface connecting a pluglet peer interface of said platform independent API to said

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intermediary; an interface connecting a <u>first</u> pluglet manager interface of said platform

independent API to said intermediary; an interface connecting a second pluglet manager

interface of said platform independent API to said intermediary; an interface connecting a pluglet

stream information interface of said platform independent API to said intermediary; an interface

connecting a pluglet stream listener interface of said platform independent API to said

intermediary; an interface connecting a <u>first</u> pluglet tag information interface of said platform

independent API to said intermediary; and an interface connecting a second pluglet tag

information interface of said platform independent API to said intermediary.

10. (Currently Amended) A method for implementing an API, comprising:

obtaining a platform-independent plug-in API including a wrapper;

obtaining a browser plug-in API; and

positioning an intermediary between said platform-independent plug-in API and said

browser plug-in API,

wherein said wrapper is used to connect said platform indepenedent plug-in API to said

intermediary, <u>said platform-independent plug-in API comprises a plurality of interfaces and said</u>

<u>wrapper includes a plurality of Interface Description Language (IDL) compliant interfaces, each</u>

<u>IDL compliant interface being operably configured to connect a respective one of said platform-</u>

<u>independent plug-in API interfaces to said intermediary.</u>

11. (Canceled)

12. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~11~~ 10 wherein said intermediary is a BlackConnect componenet.

13. (Original) The method of claim 12 wherein said BlackConnect component includes an XPCOM component.

14. (Original) The method of claim 10 wherein said platform independent plug-in API is written in a platform independent programming language.

15. (Original) The method of claim 14 wherein said platform independent programming language is Java.

16. (Original) The method of claim 15 wherein said platform independent plug-in API is a backward compatible API.

17. (Original) The method of claim 10 wherein said browser plug-in API further comprises a scriptable plug-in API wherein said scriptable plug-in API connects said browser plug-in API with said intermediary.

18. (Currently Amended) ~~The method of claim 10~~ A method for implementing an API, comprising:

obtaining a platform-independent plug-in API including a wrapper;

obtaining a browser plug-in API; and

positioning an intermediary between said platform-independent plug-in API and said browser plug-in API wherein said wrapper is used to connect said platform indepenedent plug-in API to said intermediary, wherein said wrapper further comprises: an interface connecting an input stream interface of said platform independent API to said intermediary; an interface connecting an output stream interface of said platform independent API to said intermediary; an interface connecting a pluglet interface of said platform independent API to said intermediary; an interface connecting a pluglet factory interface of said platform independent API to said intermediary; an interface connecting a pluglet peer interface of said platform independent API to said intermediary; an interface connecting a first pluglet manager interface of said platform independent API to said intermediary; an interface connecting a second pluglet manager interface of said platform independent API to said intermediary; an interface connecting a pluglet stream information interface of said platform independent API to said intermediary; an interface connecting a pluglet stream listener interface of said platform independent API to said intermediary; an interface connecting a first pluglet tag information interface of said platform independent API to said intermediary; and an interface connecting a second pluglet tag information interface of said platform independent API to said intermediary.

19. (Currently Amended) A computer program product comprising:

a computer usable medium having computer readable program code embodied therein configured to implement an API, said computer program product comprising:

computer readable code configured to cause a computer to define a platform-independent plug-in API including a wrapper;

computer readable code configured to cause a computer to define a browser plug-in API; and

computer readable code configured to cause a computer to position an intermediary between said platform-independent plug-in API and said browser plug-in API,

wherein said wrapper is used to connect said platform independent plug-in API to said intermediary, said platform-independent plug-in API comprises a plurality of interfaces and said wrapper includes a plurality of Interface Description Language (IDL) compliant interfaces, each IDL compliant interface being operably configured to connect a respective one of said platform-independent plug-in API interfaces to said intermediary.

20. (Canceled)

21. (Currently Amended) The computer program product of claim 20 19 wherein said intermediary is a BlackConnect componenet.

22. (Original) The computer program product of claim 21 wherein said BlackConnect component includes an XPCOM component.

23. (Original) The computer program product of claim 19 wherein said platform independent plug-in API is written in a platform independent programming language.

24. (Original) The computer program product of claim 23 wherein said platform independent programming language is Java.

25. (Original) The computer program product of claim 19 wherein said platform independent plug-in API is a backward compatible API.

26. (Original) The computer program product of claim 19 wherein said browser plug-in API further comprises a scriptable plug-in API wherein said scriptable plug-in API connects said browser plug-in API with said intermediary.

27. (Currently Amended) ~~The computer program product of claim 19~~ A computer program product comprising:

a computer usable medium having computer readable program code embodied therein configured to implement an API, said computer program product comprising:

computer readable code configured to cause a computer to define a platform-independent plug-in API including a wrapper;

computer readable code configured to cause a computer to define a browser plug-in API; and

computer readable code configured to cause a computer to position an intermediary between said platform-independent plug-in API and said browser plug-in API wherein said wrapper is used to connect said platform independent plug-in API to said intermediary,

wherein said wrapper further comprises: an interface connecting an input stream interface of said platform independent API to said intermediary; an interface connecting an output stream interface of said platform independent API to said intermediary; an interface connecting a pluglet interface of said platform independent API to said intermediary; an interface connecting a pluglet factory interface of said platform independent API to said intermediary; an interface connecting a pluglet peer interface of said platform independent API to said intermediary; an interface connecting a first pluglet manager interface of said platform independent API to said intermediary; an interface connecting a second pluglet manager interface of said platform independent API to said intermediary; an interface connecting a pluglet stream information interface of said platform independent API to said intermediary; an interface connecting a pluglet stream listener interface of said platform independent API to said intermediary; an interface connecting a first pluglet tag information interface of said platform independent API to said intermediary; and an interface connecting a second pluglet tag information interface of said platform independent API to said intermediary.